

AgriBiz!

SC Agricultural Education Magazine

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South Carolina Young Farmers and Agribusiness Association 2017 Conference

Contributed by Tim Keown

The 69th Annual SCYFAA Conference was held January 20-21 at the Kingston Plantation in Myrtle Beach. There were 325 members attending, representing every corner of South Carolina.

The Convention was held in conjunction with the South Carolina Pork Board and the South Carolina Soybean Board. It consisted of awards and recognitions for members of all three associations. The highlight of the awards presentations was the recognition of the SC Young Farmer and the Agribusiness Association Farmer of the Year and Agribusiness Person of the Year.

In addition, educational workshops were provided in a wide range of topics for farmers, producers and other agricultural professionals.

The conference ended with Jeff Sandifer from the Colleton-Bamberg-Barnwell Chapter, who served as the Officer Selection Chairman, announcing the following members as the 2017 SCYFAA Executive Committee.

- Vice President representing the Piedmont Region – Tim Faulkner
- Vice President representing the Mid-State Region – Jeremy Alcorn
- Vice President representing the Pee Dee Region – David Simmons
- Vice President representing the Lower State Region – Thad Wimberly
- Past-President/Treasurer – Jay Fanning
- President Elect – Stanley Rawl
- President – Tim Kelley

The 2017 SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association State Convention is scheduled to be in Charleston, SC on January 19 – 20.

Convention Sponsors

Agri-Supply
AgSouth Farm Credit
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Angel Agribusiness Insurance & Financial Services
ArborOne Farm Credit
Clemson University
Farm Bureau Insurance
First Citizens Bank
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The SC Conservation Districts Foundation Board of Trustees
South Carolina Farm Bureau
South Carolina Pork Board
South Carolina Soybean Board
Sunbelt Ag Exposition
University of Mt. Olive
Vanberg Coatings



Cover photo is the 2017 SC Young Farmer & Agribusiness State Officer Team:
Front Row L-R: President Elect Stanley Rawl, President Tim Kelley, Past President Jay Fanning / Back Row L-R: Midstate VP Jeremy Alcorn, Piedmont VP Tim Faulkner, Pee Dee VP David Simmons, Lowstate VP Thad Wimberly



SCYFAA Award Winners

Non-irrigated Corn

1st Runner-up – Kayla Player from the East Clarendon chapter with 236.4492 bushels per acre using Pioneer P2089YHR variety.

State Winner – Dan Gause from the East Clarendon chapter with 346.0533 bushels per acre using the Pioneer P1916YHR variety.

Irrigated Corn:

State Winner – Dan Garrick from the Edisto chapter with 290.82 bushels per acre using Dyna Grow D58VC37 variety.

Non-irrigated Soybeans:

1st runner up – Jason Wright from the Tyger River chapter with 68.3 bushels per acre using the Southern States 5511 variety.

State Winner – William Thomas from the East Clarendon chapter with 79.49 bushels per acre using the Pioneer P76T94 variety.

Small Grain

State Winner – Ernie Major from the Anderson County Chapter with Grahams Oats producing 100 bushels per acre.

Cotton

1st Runner-up – Clark Stillinger from the Edisto Chapter with 1303.92 pounds per acres using the Delta Pine 1646 variety.

State Winner – Kayla Player from the Lee County chapter with 1624 pounds per acre using the Delta Pine 1022 variety.

Peanuts

1st Runner-up – Clark Stillinger from the Edisto chapter with 5585.8 pounds per acre using the Bailey variety.

State Winner – Kayla Player from the Lee County chapter with 5910 pounds per acre with the Georgia 13 MS variety.

Farm Shop State Winner

Jeremy Alcorn from the Spring Hill chapter.

Horticulture State Winner

Stan McKenzie from the East Clarendon chapter

Beef Production State Winner

Stevens Farm from the Horry County chapter.

Swine Production State Winner

Ernie Major from the Anderson County chapter.

Conservation Farmer of the Year

Doug Heydt from the Bush River chapter.

Chapter President of the Year

Kayla Player from the Lee County chapter.

Chapter of the Year

Pee Dee Region Chapter of the Year – Lee County

Low State Chapter of the Year – Bamberg-Colleton-Barnwell

Midstate Chapter of the Year – Spring Hill

State Chapter of the Year from the Piedmont Region – Laurens

Advisor of the Year

Pee Dee Advisor of the Year – Beth Tolson

Piedmont Region Advisor of the Year – Josh McCall

Lowstate Region Advisor of the Year – Michael Crim

Midstate Region and State Advisor of the Year – Kevin Sox

Agribusiness Person of the Year

Piedmont Region – Will Moxley, Oconee Chapter

Midstate Region – Edgar Lamb, Edgefield Chapter

State Winner from the Pee Dee Region – Andy Duncan, East Clarendon Chapter

Young Farmer of the Year

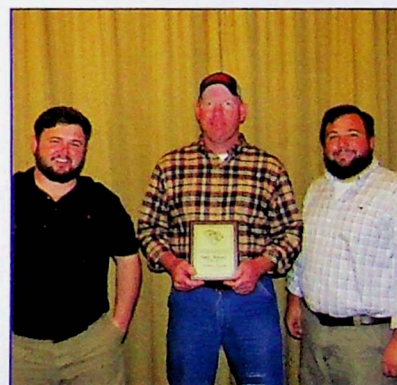
Pee Dee Region – Jeremy Cannon, East Clarendon

State Winner from the Lowstate Region – Andrew Fanning, Edisto Chapter



John Cuttino, representing the SC Conservation Districts Foundation Board of Trustees, presents Doug Heydt with the Conservation Farmer of the Year, Also shown is Chapter Advisor, Kip Beam

L – R: Jeremy Brooks, Edgefield County Chapter Advisor, Edgar Lamb, award winner, Dr. Darla Steele, Edgefield County Chapter Advisor.



Bud Miller, with Agri Supply presents award to Jeremy Alcorn of the Spring Hill Young Farmer Chapter, Also shown is Kevin Sox, Chapter Advisor

Karen Baxley, with AgSouth Farm Credit presents the SCYFAA Pee Dee Region Farmer of the Year to Jeremy Cannon from the East Clarendon Young Farmer chapter. Also shown is Chapter Advisor, Bert Beasley.



Andy Duncan Named SCYFAA Agribusiness Person of the Year

Contributed by Tim Keown

East Clarendon Young Farmer member, Andy Duncan, was recently named the Outstanding Agribusiness Person in South Carolina by the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association.

Andy works for Clemson University, where he serves as a fertilizer inspector for nine counties in the Pee Dee region of South Carolina. This includes inspections of all in-state manufactured fertilizers and fertilizer shipped to South Carolina from outside of the state. Andy is responsible for enforcing all fertilizer laws in the nine-county area and enforcing seed certification laws and policies.

Andy covers a huge swath of farmland in the Pee Dee. Andy states, "We are testing over 1,000 samples per year in my zone. There has been an increase in seed peanut acreage as well. We went from very few acres to now around 9,000 acres." He has converted applications and forms to iPad to improve efficiency and allow for less processing time.

Andy serves on the East Clarendon Young Farmer Planning Committee, East Clarendon Agricultural Education Advisory Committee, and was named the Agribusiness Person of the Year for the East Clarendon Young Farmers. He and his wife, Kerri, have one son, Dylan and they reside in Gable, SC.

Andy was presented a cash award and engraved plaque in Myrtle Beach by Johnson Atkinson, of ArborOne Farm Credit, who sponsors the award for the Agribusiness Person of the Year. Bert Beasley, Agricultural Education instructor at East Clarendon High School, serves as the professional advisor to the East Clarendon Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter.



Andrew Fanning Named SCYFAA Farmer of the Year

Contributed by Tim Keown

Edisto Young Farmer member, Andrew Fanning, was recently named the Outstanding Farmer in South Carolina by the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association.

Andrew, a fourth generation farmer, who began working on the farm at an early age, became a full partner in the operation after earning an Associate's Degree in Sustainable Agriculture. He is currently farming over 600 acres in Neeses, SC. Fanning Farms grows 100 acres of corn, 200 acres of peanuts, 300 acres of cotton, and operates four broiler poultry houses.

Since Andrew became a partner in the farm, Fanning Farms has doubled the size of the row crop operation and installed 3 irrigation center pivots. Andrew states, "In the last 2 years, my father and I have added 4 broiler chicken houses to our operation which I manage and maintain on a daily basis. I have recently added a custom ear corn market sale to the row crop operation." He also uses new agricultural technology such as a GPS system for precision rate and planting control.

Andrew recently completed a two-year term on the SCYFAA executive board where he served as the Vice President for the Low State Region. He is an alumnus of Edisto High School where he was also very active in the FFA chapter. Andrew is a member of the Lebanon United Methodist Church.

Andrew was presented a cash award and engraved plaque in Myrtle Beach by Karen Baxley, Regional Vice President of AgSouth Farm Credit who sponsors the award for the Farmer of the Year. Travis Ard, Agricultural Education instructor at Edisto High School, serves as the professional advisor to the Edisto Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter.





Public School Agricultural Education Celebrates 100th Anniversary

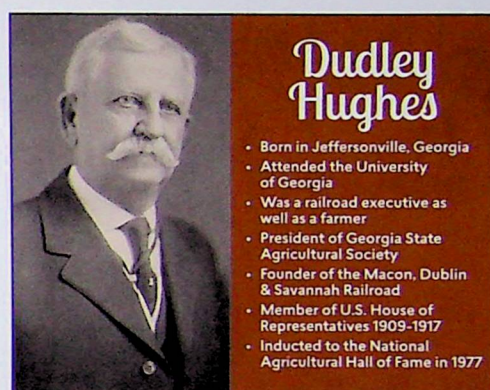
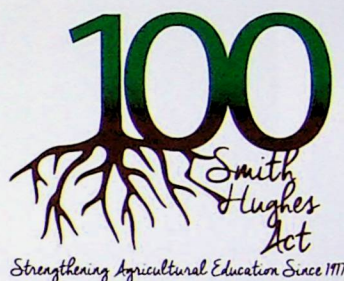
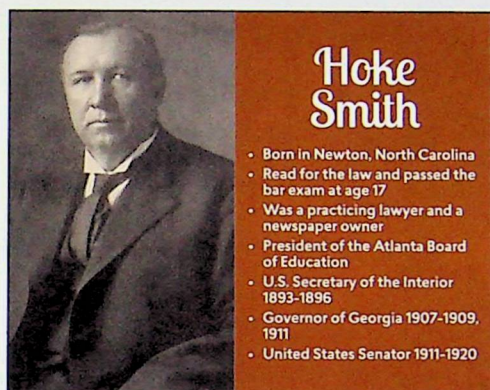
The Smith-Hughes Act

Contributed by Dr. Phil Fravel – Clemson University

The catalyst that created and shaped Agricultural Education in a form recognizable today is undisputedly the federally sponsored Smith-Hughes Act of February 1917. By 1917, the various states were already dealing with the federal mandates and stipulations of the 1862 and 1890 Morrill Acts, the Hatch Act, the Smith-Lever Act, and the Nelson Act. The Smith-Hughes legislation was by far the deepest extension of the federal government in controlling the direction of education within the individual states up to that point in time. The South Carolina statute accepting the laws and provisions of the Smith-Hughes legislation was approved by the state legislature on February 27, 1917, only four days after the federal Act was signed by President Woodrow Wilson. The State Plan for

and local school officials, especially consider the fact that programs under the Smith-Hughes Act were under the absolute control of public officials. In addition to the instructional requirements, every dollar of federal money had to be matched equally with state or local money. In South Carolina, the state made it affordable for smaller local schools to meet the salary requirements of agricultural teachers by requiring that the local system provide 25%, while the state provided 25% to match the Federal government's 50% contribution. The school grounds, facility, and equipment had to be provided by the local school.

The requirements set forth by the Smith-Hughes legislation no doubt helped strengthen and shape the characteristics of Agricultural



Vocational Education was reviewed and approved by the Federal Board on November 9, 1917 and subsequently, federal funds were made available to South Carolina on November 15 of the same year. This places South Carolina as one of the first states to accept the provisions, responsibilities, and monies associated with the Smith-Hughes Act.

The passage of this national legislation on February 23, 1917 replaced general, academic, and agricultural literacy instruction in the public schools with "Vocational Agriculture" or what was later often referred to as Vo-Ag. The process of applying and receiving the Smith-Hughes funds arrived too late during the 1917-18 academic year to make a full impact. Fortunately, plans for Agricultural Education were already under implementation in South Carolina as a result of the state Smoak-Rector Act which was passed on February 27, 1917 and was entitled "A Bill to Provide for the Teaching of Agriculture in the Public Schools of the State, and to Place the Same Under the Supervision of the State".

Smith-Hughes legislation contained unique provisions that were incorporated into the overall plan for Agricultural Education. These provisions included: liberal salaries for trained teachers, each student must attend at least 90 minutes daily in classroom agricultural work, each school must supply a separate room to teach agriculture, have at least \$100 worth of equipment, provide provisions for a supervised work experience for each student, establish a system of state teacher supervision and provide teacher training at the state level.

In retrospect, one must consider what a radical change from traditional public education this Federal Act introduced to the state

Education for years to come. The supervised agricultural experience component (SAE) has remained an integral part of secondary Agricultural Education throughout time and through the evolution of various funding provisions.

In the upcoming issues of AgriBiz, we will examine the beginning of the high school Agricultural Education programs in South Carolina and the creation of the teacher education program at Clemson College.

The Smith-Hughes Act of 1917

In the early 20th century, the United States Congress passed the Smith-Hughes Act of 1917. Named after its sponsors Hoke Smith and Dudley Hughes, the Smith-Hughes Act provided federal funds to support the teaching of agriculture, home economics and the trades in public schools across America.

The legislation included provisions for the training of teachers, supervision of this new type of education and hands-on learning. As a result of this act, a cohesive national system of career and technical education was developed and continues to this day.



Agricultural Mechanics

- Belton-Honea Path FFA
- Ben Woody, Advisor, Josh Bobo, Austin Culpepper, Austin Schronce, Jarrett King, and Austin Cathcart - SC FFA State Officer



Livestock Evaluation

- Clover FFA
- Audrey Cutlip - SC FFA State Officer, Brooke Feder - SC FFA State Officer, Amarillo Nivens, Hunter Robinson, Michael Moses, Dallas Nivens and Austin Cathcart - SC FFA State Officer



Poultry Judging

- Lexington-Richland 5 FFA
- Audrey Cutlip - SC FFA State Officer, Cameron Blankenship, Emma White, Kayla Koch and Joey McCannon - SC FFA State Officer

Dairy Judging

- York FFA
- Gunner Black, Jessie Comer, Kellyn Harper, Blakelee Wisher, Janna Thompson and Audrey Cutlip, FFA State Officer



Floriculture

- Lexington-Richland 5
- Back row: Cody Floyd
- Advisor (student teacher), Joey McCannon, SC FFA State Officer, Matthew Bonnette, Daniel Lyon, Andy Sandlin;
- Front row: Daniel Shull, Courtney Detwiler and Kevin Sox - Advisor



Nursery Landscape

- Strom Thurmond FFA
- Joey McCannon - SC FFA State Officer, Truett Taylor, Beth Verdery, Anna Kate Hightower and Ivy Claire Huie



Milk Quality and Products

- Seneca FFA
- Riley Hard, Kennedy Hard, Leese Chasten and Alexis Clark



Tractor Operation and Safety

- Ashley Ridge FFA
- Graham Miller, Joe Jones, Chase Sweat, Kenny Scott and Pierce Latham





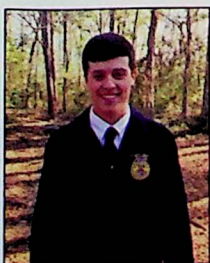
FFA Officers Invite You to the 89th State Convention

On behalf of the 2016-17 State Officer Team, I would like to announce that the 90th Annual State FFA Convention will take place at Clemson University, June 7-9, 2017. The business and general sessions will be held in the Brooks Center for the Performing Arts.

The first general session will begin at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, June 7th, with an official welcome to Clemson University. Outstanding FFA chapters will be recognized as National Chapter winners in the Superior, Bronze Emblem, Silver Emblem and Gold Emblem categories, and a number of scholarships will be awarded. Award-winning speaker & American Ninja Warrior competitor Hoan Do will be the keynote speaker on Wednesday evening.

On Thursday, June 8th, the state finals in eight Career Development Events (CDEs) will be conducted in the morning, and the second general session will begin at 1:30 PM with the recognition of state champions in CDEs held during the school year. We will also be confirming State FFA Degrees to our best members. The FFA Stars over South Carolina Ceremony will recognize regional and state stars in farming, agribusiness and agricultural placement. Our own DeShawn Blanding, National Southern Region Vice President, will present the keynote on Thursday evening and a number of Honorary State Degrees will also be presented to friends and supporters of the FFA. The closing session on Friday morning will include the announcement of state winners in Career Development Events held during the convention, other recognition programs and, of course, the election of the 2017-18 State FFA Officer team.

We hope you all are as excited about State Convention as we are. This year promises to be one of the best conventions yet! As you prepare for the most exciting week for South Carolina FFA, we hope you remember to #TransformSCFFA. We challenge each of you to Transform your chapters, communities and yourself in preparation for State Convention. Whether you are preparing for CDEs, running for state office, or just getting excited, we can't wait to see you. My teammates and I have been blessed to serve you this year and we are looking forward to the 90th State Convention as much as you are. We are super excited to hopefully see each and every one of you in Clemson as we count down to the opening session.



Austin Cathcart
2016-17 SC FFA State President

Honorary FFA Degrees

The State Officers present the Honorary State Degree to Ron Roveri, Director of Career and Technical Education, SC State Department of Education.



The Honorable Senator J. Thomas MacElveen, III, of Sumter, receives his degree from State President Austin Cathcart.



The Honorable Senator Greg Hembree, member of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, accepts the Honorary American Degree from the State Officers on behalf of the National FFA Organization.



SC FFA Members Meet With State Legislators

Contributed by A. Denise Attaway – Clemson Extension and Keith Cox



Commissioner Hugh Weathers, SC Commissioner of Agriculture, with the State FFA Officers.



Chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, Daniel B. Verdin, of Laurens presents the Resolution to the state officers.



State Representative David R. Hiott, of Pickens County Chairman of the House Agriculture, Natural Resources & Environmental Affairs Committee, meets with the State Officers.

Agriculture is important for the South Carolina economy and the state's youth are stepping up to let their voices be heard as advocates for this industry.

More than 1,000 members of the South Carolina FFA Association gathered at South Carolina Capitol Feb. 22 for the annual Legislator Appreciation Day. The members met with state legislators to discuss the future of the state's agriculture industry, as well as immediate needs. The event was held in conjunction with National FFA Week, Feb. 18-25. The week of George Washington's birthday was designated as National FFA Week in 1947 at a National FFA Board of Directors meeting. FFA Week always runs from Saturday to Saturday and encompasses Washington's Birthday.

"We are gathered here not only to celebrate FFA Week, but to celebrate our legislators who support FFA and agricultural education," said Austin Cathcart, state FFA president and a member of the Lexington-Richland 5 FFA chapter. "We also celebrate this common love of agriculture that has been instilled in each of us wearing these blue jackets. The path we are paving for American agriculture is ensuring that future generations will have enough food to eat and clothes to wear."

Hugh Weathers, South Carolina commissioner of agriculture, commended the youth for their interest and involvement in agriculture.

"Your attendance here today shows you care about South Carolina agriculture," Weathers said. "I encourage you to talk with your (government) officials about agriculture. Use your words effectively and let them know what you are thinking. Your attendance today is a great boost for South Carolina agriculture and for those of us who make critical decisions concerning agriculture in our state."

State Rep. Daniel Hiott (R-Pickens) said he too was encouraged by the FFA members' attendance at the State Capitol.

"Too often, we read and hear about negative actions involving our youth," Hiott said. "But when I look out and see you, I'm encouraged. I know our future is in good hands."

State Sen. Daniel Verdin (R-Laurens) said FFA is one of the "best organizations" youth can belong to.

"As a young person, you are on the cusp of life," Verdin said. "As a member of FFA, you are in the greatest preparatory role of any young person here in South Carolina. What you are learning now will benefit you later in life. Remember everything you can about events such as this so that you can use your experiences to help you throughout your lifetime."

Molly Spearman, state superintendent of education, applauded the

steps the FFA organization has taken to include everyone.

"When I was in school, I couldn't be in FFA," Spearman said. "I had to be in FHA, which stands for Future Homemakers of America and was the girls' club. As I look out among you, I see girls wearing blue FFA jackets and I know we've come a long way. My advice to you is to keep going. I am confident in our future because I know South Carolina is producing exceptional young people who will be able to successfully lead our state in the future."

The "blue FFA jackets" Spearman referred to are blue corduroy jackets that have been worn by FFA members since the 1930s.

As the event began to wind down, members of the Saluda High School FFA Club, said they were happy to have attended the Legislator Appreciation Day as it gave them an opportunity to advocate for agriculture.

"This is one of the most important things we can do as members of FFA," said Hannah Bowen, Saluda FFA member. "Food and fiber are essential for everyone and farmers are the providers for these necessities. We are here to speak out and let our legislators know we support and encourage support for South Carolina agriculture."

The event also included the awarding of Honorary State FFA degrees to four people. This degree is reserved for those individuals who have gone beyond the call of duty to promote and support the mission of the FFA at the local, state and national levels. This prestigious award is considered to be among the top agricultural awards available in America.

Receiving Honorary State degrees at the ceremony were: David O'Shields, Ron Roveri, state director of Career and Technology Education for the South Carolina Dept. of Education and Sen. J. Thomas McElveen III (D-Sumter).

The Honorable Senator Greg Hembree, member of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, accepted the Honorary American Degree, during the ceremony, from the State Officers on behalf of the National FFA Organization. This is the highest honorary degree the FFA offers.

The 2016-17 state FFA officers conducted the ceremony at the South Carolina State House. They are: Austin Cathcart, State President, from the Lexington-Richland 5 chapter, Joey McCannon, State Secretary from the Pendleton chapter, Kaytlynn Simmons, State Vice President from the McBee chapter, Brooke Feder State Vice President from the Pelion chapter, Haley Nealy State Vice President from the Pickens County CTC chapter and Audrey Cutlip, State Vice President from Blythewood chapter.



Spring Showers Bring Beautiful Flowers

Contributed by Steve Sanderson

Rain or shine, Plant Presentation Day is an annual project of SC Association of Agricultural Educators in which beautiful spring bedding plants are contributed in order to landscape the State House Grounds. The plants are grown by FFA members, who are enrolled in the Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources Career Cluster, as part of their hands-on-training experience.

This year's ceremony was held on April 5, 2017 in the Blatt Building located on the south grounds of the state capital. The ceremony had to be moved inside due to inclement weather, but the array of colors from the beautiful flowers was still a sight to be seen. Mr. Pat Earle, representative of the SC Agricultural Educators Association and Agriculture Educator at McBee High School, presided over the event. The program began with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Audrey Cutlip, state vice president from the Blythewood Chapter and invocation by Kaytlynn Simmons, state vice president from McBee Chapter and Brooke Felder, state vice president from the Pelion Chapter welcomed all of the special guests.

Remarks given by Mr. Michael Crim agriculture teacher at Ridge Spring- Monetta High School and President of the South Carolina Association of Agriculture Educators, State FFA President Austin Cathcart from the Lexington Richland 5 chapter, State Representative Steve Moss from Blacksburg and Representative Russell Ott from St. Matthews. Commissioner of Agriculture, the Honorable Hugh Weathers, also gave remarks and received the gift of Flowers.

Mr. Dennis Haigler, horticulturalist with the Division of General Services stated about the day "This means a lot to the state. The flowers are used on over thirty state properties including the State House Grounds and the Governor's Mansion," Haigler said. "We are always impressed with the quality of plants and the quality of students that are in the agriculture programs." Haigler went on to say "This is like Christmas Day for us."

The plants were presented to Commissioner of Agriculture Hugh Weathers and Dennis Haigler, Horticulturalist with the Division of General Services by the State FFA Officers, Mr. Billy Keels, State Director of Agriculture Education and Mr. Michael Crim, President of the South Carolina Association of Agriculture Educators.



State Officers Austin Carthart and Audrey Cutlip, Mr. Billy Keels, State Director of Agriculture Education, Mr. Dennis Haigler, Horticulturalist with the Division of General Services, Commissioner of Agriculture, the Honorable Hugh Weathers, Mr. Michael Crim agriculture teacher at Ridge Spring- Monetta High School and President of the South Carolina Association of Agriculture Educators, and State Officers Kaytlynn Simmons and Brooke Feder. Commissioner Weathers and Mr. Haigler accepted the plants for on behalf of the state.



Mr. Pat Earle Agriculture teacher at McBee High and host for the program today, Commissioner of Agriculture, the Honorable Hugh Weathers, Mr. Dennis Haigler, Horticulturalist with the Division of General Services, Mr. Michael Crim agriculture teacher at Ridge Spring- Monetta High School and President of the South Carolina Association of Agriculture Educators



Mr. Dennis Haigler, State Horticulturalist addresses the crowd and expresses his gratitude toward the FFA and Agriculture Education

FFA Members Enjoy Year Round Camping Programs

Contributed by Stephen Sanderson

FFA members from around the state flock to attend the off-season specialty camps offered by the SCFFA. Members are able to participate in five specialized camps through-out the year. In the fall of the year members participated in the Fishing Camp. During this camp, campers were exposed to a wide range of educational activities that included: two off-shore guided fishing excursions, pier fishing from the famous Cherry Grove Fishing Pier, and activities conducted by the Bass Pro Shops.

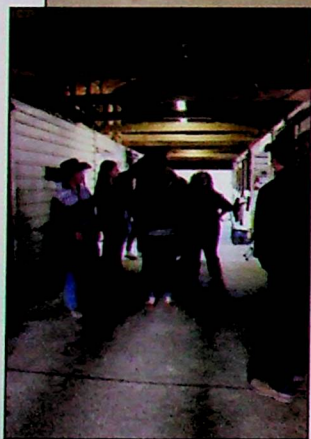
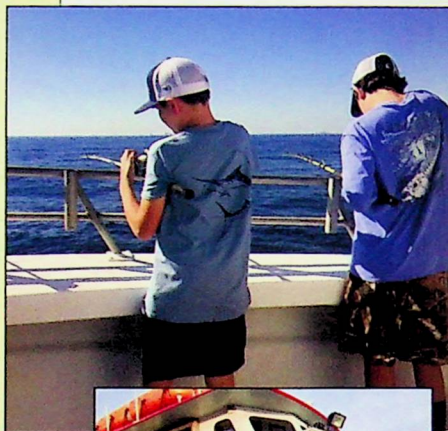
Two camps were offered during the winter months. The first was the Outdoor Recreation Camp. During this camp, members had the opportunity to go through survival activities that were conducted by Play Card Education Center, DNR conducted hunting education activities, and Ducks Unlimited instructed members in the building of Wood Duck boxes. Other activities included the Soar and Roar Zipline and ropes course at Broadway at the Beach and the members also went through firearm safety. During the firearm safety section of the camp, campers were able to shoot skeet, trap, handguns, rifles, and crossbows.

The second winter camping session was the Greenhand Camp. At this camp, the members started out with a getting to know you activity with the State Officers on Friday morning that was followed by some workshops on opportunities that they will have in the FFA. After lunch they were able to share some fun activities with their new friends at Wonder Works. The members also learned about CDE's such as Wildlife, Creed, Tool ID and others, by competing in some mini CDE's conducted by the advisors and State Officers. Greenhands worked throughout the weekend to develop a "mock" banquet, which was held during the last night of camp.

During the spring FFA members had the opportunity to participate in an Equine Camp. Campers were able to go on a trail ride and a beach ride. They also enjoyed many educational opportunities as it applied to equine management and riding. The Equine Camp was capped off by a trip to Medieval Times where FFA members enjoyed an outstanding dinner show and were able to see some outstanding horsemanship.

Horticulture Camp took place in April. During this camp, members were able to tour Coastal Carolina University's athletic complex and enjoy a Chanticleer Baseball game. Students also learned about turf management and were able to enjoy a round of golf or go to the driving range and play miniature golf. Educational activities on ornamental and landscape plants were conducted and the students were able to go on a tour of Brook Green Gardens. The camp ended with a dinner show at Pirates Voyage.

The SCFFA Camp offers numerous educational and leadership opportunities all year long.





60 Years of Summer Camp

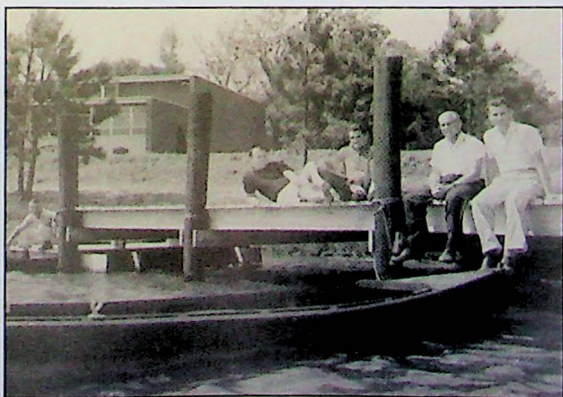
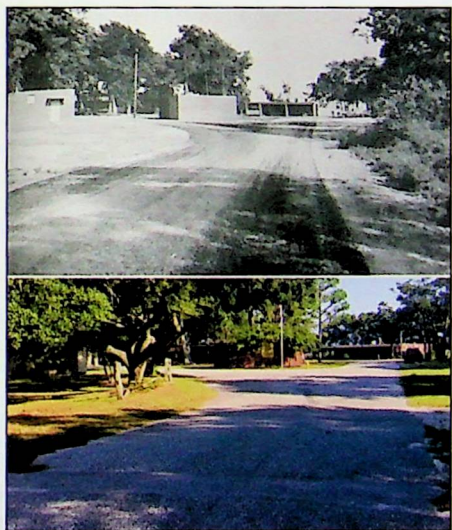
Contributed by Stephen Sanderson

Since 1957 FFA members from across the state of South Carolina have been attending the SCFFA Camp at Cherry Grove. Through these years, the camp has provided many FFA members with life changing experiences and positive memories. Campers participate in a variety of traditional camp activities including beach trips, kayaking, low ropes, high ropes, paintball, pool, athletics, cardboard project, and the Blue & Gold war.

FFA members also have the opportunity to participate in the summer camp nightlife activities. This year's activities include Legend's In Concert, The Broadway Grand Prix, and Myrtle Waves Water Park.

FFA summer camp is certainly about having fun and experiencing the beach life. While doing all of the activities, FFA members tend to always build relationships, create chapter memories, and develop leadership skills that will last a lifetime.

Four summer camping sessions are offered for the summer of 2017. For more information about all of the camping programs, visit www.scaged.org and click on the SC FFA Camp link. SEE YOU AT CAMP!!



Celebrate Good Times

Contributed by Keith Cox

On March 9th a celebration was held in Manning that was well over due for South Carolina. Over 200 guest, officials, family, FFA members and advisors from 23 chapters gathered to celebrate the success of DeShawn Blanding, South Carolina's first national officer in 49 years.

The evening started with the FFA Opening Ceremony and welcome followed by a wonderful meal prepared by the culinary arts students at F. E. DuBose Career Center.

The Manning FFA Officers showed a wonderful video entitled "The Making of a National Officer" that they produced for the night. The video showed images of DeShawn from first grade to current pictures that summed up his life and key moments. Former Manning FFA members, state association staff and members of DeShawn's state officer team shared some kind words and funny memories.

Other highlights included Manning Mayor Julia Nelson, presenting DeShawn with the Key to the City and State Senator Kevin Johnson presenting DeShawn with a Proclamation from the Senate congratulating him on his accomplishment.

Two special guests that were in attendance where Mr. Robert Rish and Mr. Frank Stover Sr. Mr. Rish was the last national officer from South Carolina. Serving on the 1967-68 National Officer team and his advisor was Mr. Stover at Pelion High School.

Dr. John Tindal, Superintendent Clarendon School District Two, offered congratulations to DeShawn and thanked everyone for attending and the support given. He offered a special thanks to Micheal Haynes, Manning FFA Chapter Advisor, for all of the accomplishments of the Manning FFA at the local, state and national levels.

DeShawn Blanding, Southern Region Vice President National FFA Organization, gave words of thanks to everyone and the celebration ended with the FFA Closing Ceremony by the 2016-17 SC FFA State Officers.



Mayor Julia Nelson, Manning Advisor Michael Haynes, National Officer DeShawn Blanding and Senator State Senator Kevin Johnson



Michael Haynes, Manning FFA Advisor; DeShawn Blanding, current National FFA Southern Region VP, Robert Rish the 1967-68 National Officer form SC and Frank Stover Sr., form Advisor of Rish at Pelion High.



Did You Know?

Audrey – Did you know that Saluda FFA has their own green house and sells plants throughout the spring? The students grow and raise all of the plants themselves and use the profits to benefit their program. During National FFA Week this year, students William Yonce and Wyatt Lane Doolittle competed in the Mr. FFA Competition and made it to the top 10. Wyatt was also awarded Best application and Mr. Smith-Hughes. Between fundraisers, chapter events and CDEs, the members of the Saluda FFA Chapter are busy bees this spring!



Austin – Did you know that the Pelion FFA Chapter farms a five-acre area behind their school growing a wide variety of crops? The students learn many aspects of row crop production growing crops including lettuce, broccoli, tomatoes, peanuts, and corn.



They sell these crops to teachers at their school and members of their community. The school has even partnered with WP Rawls farm and plants trial crops for them such as kale and cabbage. Sustainability is a priority for the students at Pelion as they experience the joys and discomforts of agricultural life.

Brooke – Did you know that Union FFA celebrates National FFA Week each year with a wide variety of activities? This past February, several of their officers and members traveled to Columbia to participate in Legislators Appreciation Day at the State House. Furthermore, back at Union, members participated in Leadership Workshops, a National FFA Week cookout and finished out the week with Ag Olympics! Union FFA members and their mascot Mufasa the lizard are all full of pride for the FFA and passionate about transforming themselves into being the best leaders that they can be!



Haley – Did You Know, I have had the privilege of visiting many chapters. The one that taught me the most was the Manning FFA Chapter. When DeShawn Blanding was elected as a National Officer, not only was the chapter proud of their hometown hero, but they also had a celebration with FFA members all across the state and people in their community who had impacted the chapters and DeShawn's life. The Manning FFA Chapter taught me, that everyone is worth celebrating and no matter who walks through your doors, you greet them with open arms. Thank you Manning FFA for always welcoming others with open arms.



Joey – Did you know? The Seneca Agricultural Education program has a unique wildlife management class – the students get to create endanger animal protection videos that are true tearjerkers, participate in a fish dissection, and even go on a class trip to a local lake for a fishing field trip. Mrs. Addis, the teacher at Seneca works to give her students chances they have never had before! I was able to visit with their students over the year and can't wait to see what they do in the future!



Kaytlynn – Did you know that Cane Bay supplies chicks to their local Tractor Supply? The students in the Cane Bay FFA help raise these chicks and then gives them to Tractor Supply to sell. In fact, all of the eggs are donated by students in the Cane Bay FFA Chapter. This is a way for their members to get to know the members of their community while sharing a passion for agriculture. During my visit I saw how together, they cared for these chickens. Right now they are even trying to build some chicken coops to further their efforts to raise chickens!



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